

Application No.: 10/051693

Case No.: 56268US012

REMARKS**35 U.S.C. § 112 Claim Rejections**

Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the Applicant regards as his invention.

Claim 11 has been amended by replacing the phrase "can be removed" with "is removable" as suggested by the Examiner.

Although not subject to a rejection, the Examiner also stated that the Claim 1 limitation "wherein the article exhibit an interlayer cohesive failure at the release layer of the retroreflective sheet when an attempt is made to remove the article from the substrate surface" is given little to no patentable weight since it is regarded as functional language.

Claim 1 has been amended to delete such functional language. The suggested means-plus function language as suggested by the Examiner has been added as new dependent Claim 17.

35 U.S.C. § 102 Claim Rejections

Claims 1-4 and 6-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 (b) as being clearly anticipated by WO 99/55791.

Claim 1 has also been amended to clarify that the release layer is disposed between the reflective layer and layer of lenses. Support for this amendment is found throughout the specification such as by FIGS. 1-5.

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35 U.S.C. § 103 Claim Rejections

Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) as being unpatentable over WO '791 is view of JP 57-044679.

The Applicant submits there is no motivation to combine JP 57-044679 with WO '791. The Applicant further submits, however, that even if there were a motivation to combine, the combination does not arrive at the claimed invention since none of the references relied upon teach an article comprising a release layer disposed between the reflective layer and layer of lenses.

The Applicant has responded to all the rejections set forth by the Examiner. A timely allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

By: Carolyn A. Fischer
Carolyn A. Fischer, Reg. No.: 39,091
Telephone No.: 651-575-3915

Office of Intellectual Property Counsel
3M Innovative Properties Company
Facsimile No.: 651-736-3833

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